

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: JACK ANDERSON COLUMN

1. FOLLOWING ANDERSON COLUMN HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO  
SUBSCRIBING NEWSPAPERS AND WILL BE PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 11.

2. BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S TWO CLOSEST CONFI-  
DANTES--TOP AIDE HAMILTON JORDAN AND ATLANTA ATTORNEY  
CHARLES KIRBO--HAVE BEEN LINKED TO A \$10 MILLION FIX.  
BOTH MEN EMPHATICALLY DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEAL.

3. BOTH LETTERS, TELEPHONE MESSAGES AND SWORN TESTIMONY  
TIE THEM TO A GEORGIA GROUP WHICH SOUGHT A \$10 MILLION  
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SLICE OF FUGITIVE FINANCIER ROBERT VESCO'S STOLEN FORTUNE.  
IN RETURN, THE GEORGIANS ALLEGEDLY PROMISED TO FIX VESCO'S  
LEGAL PROBLEMS IN WASHINGTON.

4. NO ONE HAS MORE INFLUENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT THAN  
DO JORDAN AND KIRBO, WHO ARE KNOWN IN POLITICAL CIRCLES  
AS MR. INSIDE AND MR. OUTSIDE. BUT THEY DENY EVER USING  
THEIR INFLUENCE TO HELP VESCO.

5. THE LATTER HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN A BIOGRAPHY AS QUOTE THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL SWINDLER OF OUR TIME END QUOTE. HE ALLEDEDLY LOOTED A MUTUAL FUND OF A STAGGERING SUM ESTIMATED AS HIGH AS \$500 MILLION. BUT HE DENIES STEALING ANY MONEY AND CLAIMS TO BE A VICTIM OF US HARRASSMENT.

6. LIKE ALL VESCO'S DEALINGS, THIS CAPER IS ENORMOUSLY COMPLEX. FOR A NOMINAL \$42,500 PAYMENT, FRONT MEN FOR THE GEORGIA GROUP WOUND UP OWNING A BLOCK OF STOCK IN VESCO'S CORPORATE FLAGSHIP. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH SOME ADROIT SLIGHT OF HAND WHICH HAD VESCO'S EXPERT PERSONAL TOUCH.

7. SO FAR THE GEORGIANS HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CASH IN THEIR STOCK. IT HAS PAPER VALUE OF \$12 MILLION, BUT THEY OFFERED TO SELL IT TO LIQUIDATORS IN THE BAHAMAS FOR \$10 MILLION. THIS WAS THE FIGURE THEY HAD BEEN LED BY VESCO TO EXPECT. MEANWHILE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUDDENLY DROPPED ITS EFFORTS TO EXTRADITE VESCO. THIS ABORTED A MOVE BY AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TERENCE TODMAN TO PERSUADE THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT TO RETURN VESCO TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TRIAL.

8. TODMAN, NOW OUR AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HE HAD BEEN PREPARING A NEW EXTRADITION REQUEST AND THAT HE HAD MADE HIS VIEWS ON VESCO KNOWN INFORMALLY TO THE COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES.

9. QUOTE WE HOPED HE WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATES END QUOTE SAID TODMAN. QUOTE BUT JUSTICE NEVER GOT THE WHOLE THING TOGETHER. WE STILL WANTED HIM RETURNED, BUT WE NEVER GOT THE FORMAL REQUEST FROM JUSTICE TO PRESENT THE REQUEST. END QUOTE.

10. ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL TOLD US THE DECISION TO DISCONTINUE THE EXTRADITION EFFORT WAS MADE WITHIN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. THE PROSECUTORS FELT THEY HAD EXHAUSTED THE AVAILABLE AVENUES FOR BRINGING VESCO BACK. BELL SAID. HE INSISTED THERE HAD BEEN NO PRESSURE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE IN VESCO'S BEHALF.

11. ACCORDING TO THE SWORN TESTIMONY, VESCO WANTED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION QUOTE TO GET TODMAN OFF HIS BACK END QUOTE. DOCUMENTS IN OUR POSSESSION SHOW THE TWO RINGLEADERS OF THE GEORGIA GROUP WERE R.L. HERRING, NOW IN JAIL UNDER \$500,000 BOND AWAITING TRIAL FOR UNRELATED FRAUD CHARGES AND SPENCER LEE IV, WHO CLAIMS HE MERELY ACTED AS HERRING'S ATTORNEY. HERRING HAD THE CONNECTION WITH VESCO, AND LEE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF JORDAN'S.

12. HERRING HAS SWORN UNDER OATH THAT HE ARRANGED WITH LEE TO GET HAMILTON JORDAN TO INTERVENE. DECLARED HERRING, QUOTE SPENCER SAID HE CALLED HAMILTON, AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALL RIGHT. HE ALSO SAID HAMILTON TOLD HIM THAT THEY

WOULD MANEUVER TODMAN OUT END QUOTE. BOTH JORDAN AND LEE DENIED THAT THE APPROACH WAS EVER MADE.

13. IN ANY EVENT TODMAN WAS TRANSFERRED OUT OF COSTA RICA IN APRIL OF 1977. VESCO TOOK THE ABANDONMENT OF THE EXTRADITION EFFORT AND THE REMOVAL OF TODMAN AS A SIGNAL THAT THE FIX WAS ON. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE BEGAN THE MACHINATIONS THAT TRANSFERRED A \$42,500 PAYMENT INTO A

MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR STOCK DEAL

14. WITNESSES REPORT THAT VESCO OUTLINED THE COMPLEX STOCK DEAL TO THE GEORGIANS IN COSTA RICA ON JANUARY 15, 1977. FLIGHT RECORDS SHOW THAT THEY FLEW TO COSTA RICA ON A PRIVATE JET ON JANUARY 14, AND RETURNED JANUARY 16. BOTH HERRING AND LEE WERE LISTED AS PASSENGERS.

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15. VESCO PROMISED TO DELIVER TO THE GEORGIANS THROUGH A SERIES OF MANIPULATIONS \$12 MILLION WORTH OF STOCK IN HIS PRIME CORPORATIONS. THIS IS A CREATION WHICH HE CALLS PROPERTY RESOURCES LIMITED. FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS REFER TO THE COMPANY LITERALLY AS QUOTE PLUNDER, RAPE AND LOOT END QUOTE. IN FINANCIAL CIRCLES IT IS KNOWN AS PRL.

16. A FEW DAYS AFTER LEE RETURNED TO COSTA RICA, HE FLEW TO THE BAHAMAS TO SET UP A CORPORATION CALLED SOUTHERN VENTURES LIMITED. THE FLIGHT RECORDS SHOW HE ARRIVED THERE ON JANUARY 27, 1977. HERRING HAD TESTIFIED THAT SOUTHERN VENTURES WAS ESTABLISHED TO LAUNDER THE MILLIONS THAT THE GEORGIANS EXPECTED TO GET WHEN THEY CASHED IN THEIR PRL STOCK.

17. THE FLIGHT RECORDS SHOW THAT ON THE FOLLOWING FEBRUARY 7 LEE AND HERRING FLEW TO WASHINGTON FROM GEORGIA. TELEPHONE MESSAGES AND CORRESPONDENCE IN OUR POSSESSION INDICATE THAT LEE SPOKE TO HAMILTON JORDAN ABOUT THE PRL DEAL. IN A LETTER TO JORDAN, LEE ALSO REPORTED THAT QUOTE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS IN NASSAU END QUOTE. BOTH JORDAN AND LEE DENIED THAT THE DOCUMENTS ARE AUTHENTIC. THEY HAVE BEEN VERIFIED, HOWEVER, BY INDEPENDENT SOURCES, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY WHO TYPED AND MAILED LEE'S LETTER TO JORDAN.

18. FOOTNOTE: WE HAD BEEN INVESTIGATING THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HAMILTON JORDAN AND CHARLES KIRBO FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. WE HAD TRACKED DOWN THE DETAILS FROM COSTA RICA TO NASSAU. WE HAVE ALSO MADE REPEATED TRIPS TO GEORGIA. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO DOZENS OF WITNESSES, TAKEN SEVERAL AFFIDAVITS AND HAVE OBTAINED A RAFT OF DOCUMENTS. HERRING WAS QUESTIONED UNDER OATH FOR 14 HOURS. HE PROVIDED PAINSTAKING DETAILS, WHICH WE HAVE LARGELY CONFIRMED FROM INDEPENDENT SOURCES. THE DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED

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IN FUTURE COLUMNS. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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